

itself on every occasion where they have been called on. The sons of Judge N. G. Morris, of Donaldsonville, have stood fire for four or five hours at a time, driving the enemy under their battery—from bush to bush, and rock to rock, and at last were among the foremost to rush into the Bishop's Palace and take it by storm. Captain Blanchard and his Company have already made a reputation that will not soon be forgotten. S. G. Allen, private of this company, was mortally wounded in this fight, and died next morning. Captain Smith had no one killed or wounded in his party of regulars—two Texans were wounded, viz: Wm. Carley and B. F. Keeler.

BISHOP'S PALACE, Monterey, Sept. 24th 1845

GENTLEMEN—I date both my letters

one day, because I am obliged to foot up

the news of the last four days, having no

writing materials along. Even now,

though I write in a hurry, I am obliged

to hold the sheet of paper in one hand on

my knee, for want of a desk. But I have

no time for extra remarks—a chance of

letters to send you the news, and I must

hurry to give a glance at what has been

done here, before the express goes off.—

On the morning of the 21st, Col. Childs,

of the artillery battalion, with three of

his companies—one commanded by Cap-

tain Vinton, another by Capt. J. B. Scott,

and the third by Lieut. Ayres—and three

companies of the 8th Infantry—company A,

commanded by Lieut. Longstreet and

Lieut. Wainwright, 1 company, Lieut.

Holloway, commanding, and Lieut. Mer-

riam, D company, Captain Scriven and

Lieut. Montgomery—was ordered to take

the summit of Palace Hill. The Col-

onel left camp at 3 o'clock, A. M., and

climbed the mountain through the chappa-

ral, and up the steep rocks, with such ac-

curacy that at daylight he was within one

hundred yards of the breastwork of sand

bags before he was discovered. The

Mexicans poured their musketry into them

but they rushed up the precipice and soon

had the place. The crew of the artillery men

having rushed ahead too fast, found them

selves in the hands of the Mexicans.—

Took their muskets and shot them down

with the very pieces they had given up.—

I saw the poor fellows lying there.

I have but a few moments left to write

in, and must, therefore, defer the partici-

pars of the storming of the palace until I

have more time. Col. Stanford went up

at daylight with the balance of the 8th and

Mar. Scott led up the 5th. The Louisi-

ana boys were on the hill with the 5th at

8 o'clock, A. M. One of Duncan's how-

itzers, in charge of Lieut. R. W. A., was

dragged up, or rather *lifted* up, and open-

ed on the place, which was filled with

troops. The Mexicans charged on the

howitzer, but were driven back. A con-

stant firing was kept up for several hours,

particularly by Blanchard, man who led

a dozen Mexicans dead on the hill side.—

At length a charge was ordered, and our

men rushed down upon the place, entered

a hole in the fort that had been blocked

up, but opened by the howitzer, and so

cleared the way of the few Mexicans who

remained. Lieut. Ayres was the luckiest

one who first reached the battery and

lowered the flag. One 18 pound brass

piece, a beautiful article, manufactured at

Liverpool in 1812, and a short brass 12

pound howitzer, were captured, with a

large quantity of ammunition, muskets

and lances. The fort a lining the plaza walls is not completed, but is very

neatly constructed as far as it is built.

The killed on our side, in taking the pla-

za, was seven—wounded, twelve. Lieut.

Wainwright was wounded in the arm on

side by a musket ball, but will soon re-

cover. It is hoped, Mr. John Francis of

New Orleans, belonging to Blanchard's

company, was killed. I will give a full

account of this affair at another time. C.

Childs, Capt. Vinton, Capt. Blanchard,

Lieut. Clark, (Adj't. of the 8th), Lieut.

Ayres, Lieut. McCowan, and the two Ni-

cholls seem to be bags the heroes of the

day. The two latter did the thing up

brown," and not only Judge Nicholls but

old Louisiana may well be proud of such

sons. The Mexicans lost at least thirty

killed—wounds not yet been buried this

morning, and I have seen a number lying

on the hill side, that were not discovered

by me and when they brought in the

dead.

Yesterday morning the whole division

under Gen. Worth entered the town on

this side, and have been fighting ther-

ever since.—The heart of the city is no-

thing but a fortification, the thick walls

being pierced for muskets, and canon

shells placed so as to take the principal

forts. The roofs being flat, and the

four walls rising three or four feet above

the roof, of course every street has a line

of sentinels on each side. A ten

inch mortar came around from Gen. Tay-

lor last evening, and it is now placed in

the largest plaza, to which our troops

have fought step by step, and from house

to house. Duncan's batteries are in

town, and the present impression is that

the place will soon be taken. Gen.

Worth has gained all the strongholds

around the city, and has pushed the

enemy as far as they can go, without fall-

ing into Gen. Taylor's hands on the out-

side of the city. All this has been

done with the loss of only about seventy

kill'd and woun'd! This achievement

is a glorious one—sufficient to satisfy

the ambition of any man on earth. I

was expecting to see Gen. Worth in

the morning, but his report has been very

different from this. His great study has

been to gain these commanding points

with the least possible sacrifice of life.

At first it seemed totally impossible to

storm these heights—it looked like charg-

ing up the cliffs—but it has been

done. The Bishop's Palace which is

an excellent

strong as it has been represented to be has been stormed and taken by our brave soldiers. I should have stated that Col. Hays, with a body of his troops, and Captains Gillispie and McCulloch were at the taking of the place. Capt. Gillespie was mortally wounded, and died yesterday morning, regretted by the whole army.

I cannot keep up, at all, with the Rangers. Their services have been invaluable to Gen. Taylor, from the commencement of the campaign. They fight with all the steadiness of old soldiers—and are constantly on the move. The country owes them much for their noble conduct. I say nothing, as yet about Gen. Taylor's proceedings on the other side of the town because the information I have received is not well authenticated. Mr. Kentish and I both came out with this division, neither knowing that the other was with us, until it was too late to return, and then is no communication between the divisions except by armed bodies of men. The general has, however, taken three batteries near the town on the other side, in doing which he has lost about three hundred men killed and wounded! I do not know the exact number killed, but will be able to ascertain before this letter goes—will try to give other particulars.

Gen. Taylor has arrived at General Worth's head quarters to-day, and is now engaged in town with the Amputia's messengers, considering the enemy's movements and sending out messages to the unoccupied parts of the town. The general has, however, taken three batteries near the town on the other side, in doing which he has lost about three hundred men killed and wounded! I do not know the exact number killed, but will be able to ascertain before this letter goes—will try to give other particulars.

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